of several scholars and statesmen, and still others travel diaries and journals of thrilling events. Accounts have been written of particular sections of China, especially of the states which have been more or less independent of the dynasties considered legitimate. Of these states there have been a large number, some, as we have seen, having been very important.

China possesses an extraordinarily voluminous group of what may be called local histories or gazeteers. A few of them cover the entire Empire and are in the nature of descriptive and statistical geographies. More treat of special sections of the Empire. Each of the major subdivisions of the country—the provinces, the *fu,* the *hsien,* and the main cities—is normally provided with a work which is both a local history and a description, often very minute, of the region as it was at a particular time. Many of the chief hillSj mountains, and monasteries of the country have been made the subject of similar works. There are accounts, too, of some of the chief rivers and of the engineering measures which have been taken to control their waters. Treatises exist on the outlying dependencies of the Empire, on several of the non-Chinese peoples within the Empire, and on what the Chinese of a particular time knew of one or more of the foreign countries. Of the gazeteers about five thousand are still in existence. Many of them are very detailed and extend to large dimensions.

China also has numerous descriptions of her governmental machinery. Some portray the entire imperial structure by which the country was ruled and others only certain phases or functions of the state. Some are historical and others chiefly or entirely devoted to what was contemporary with

the author.

The Chinese have long been attracted by certain phases of archeology. Inscriptions have absorbed much attention and numerous collections of transcriptions or exact reproductions of them—by rubbings—have been compiled and treatises written on them.

There have, too, been essays and more extensive treatises of what may be called historical criticism, a large proportion of them dealing with individual works or series of histories. The Chinese have also written a good many books in which prodigies and the marvelous have held the chief place and which to the modem historian are of interest mainly because of the light which